AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-11 without prejudice.

Please add claims 12-17.

The following is a complete listing of the claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled without prejudice).

Claim 12 (new). A method for preparing a stable oral pharmaceutical dosage formulation which consists essentially of:

(a) forming a pellet core consisting essentially of 10 to 50 weight percent based on the total weight of the core of omeprazole or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt , a surface active agent, a filler, a binder and 0.5 to 10 weight percent based on the total weight of the core of a pharmaceutically acceptable alkaline agent, wherein the alkaline agent is selected from the group consisting of lysine and arginine; and

(b) applying an enteric coating directly onto the core without a separating layer wherein the enteric coating layer surrounds the core and consists essentially of an enteric coating agent, 5 to 50 weight percent based on the total weight of the coating layer of an inert processing aid and optionally a plasticizer.

Claim 13 (new). The method recited in claim 12 wherein the enteric coating layer is applied from an organic solvent based system.

Claim 14 (new). The method recited in claim 12 wherein the step of forming the core further comprises the step of applying the core ingredients onto an inert core.

Claim 15 (new). The method recited in claim 12 wherein the

pharmaceutically acceptable alkaline agent is about 1 to about 3 % of the total weight of the core.

Claim 16 (new). The method recited in claim 12 wherein the inert processing aid is selected from the group consisting of talc, silicon dioxide and magnesium stearate.

Claim 17 (new). The method recited in claim 16 wherein the inert processing aid is talc.